

Appl. No.: 10/627,199

Reply to Office Action of: 08/22/2005

REMARKS

In regard to paragraph 2 of the office action, the examiner is requested to withdraw his rejection. In the Interview Summary mailed 08/05/2005 Examiner Bryant indicated that the objection would be withdrawn in response the applicant's petition.

Claims 11-16 and 20-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Alvarez (US 2,580,269) in view of Simon (US 4,982,592) or O'Loughlin (US 3,744,006). The examiner is requested to reconsider this rejection.

Claim 11 has been amended to clarify applicant's claimed invention. In particular, claim 11 claims removing a portion of the metal member at a middle section of the metal member after the metal member has been extruded; and bending the metal member about the middle section after the portion has been removed from the middle section, wherein the reduced size of the middle section allows easier bending about the middle section. The method claimed in claim 11 is not disclosed or suggested in the art of record.

In regard to the examiner's attempted combination of Alvarez and Simon or O'Loughlin, there appears no suggestion or teaching to combine the references. Obviousness can only be established by combining or modifying the teachings of the prior art to produce the claimed invention where there is some teaching, suggestion, or motivation to do so found either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art. (see MPEP 2143.01, page 2100-98, column 1). The mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the

Appl. No.: 10/627,199

Reply to Office Action of: 08/22/2005

resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination (see MPEP 2143.01, page 2100-98, column 2).

In the present case, Simon is for making a valve body as part of an oil control valve. The body 10 needs to be continuous about its circumference as seen in Figs. 2 and 3 so the valve body 10 would not leak oil. Since Alvarez teaches slots 30, 32 to facilitate compression, it would not be obvious to extrude the clamp 10 in Alvarez based upon Simon. Simon discloses no such slots and would appear to each away from extruding with slots. The valve would leak if it had a slot.

Furthermore, Simon is not analogous art. The examiner is directed to MPEP 2141.01(a). The examiner must determine what is "analogous prior art" for the purpose of analyzing the obviousness of the subject matter at issue. "In order to rely on a reference as a basis for rejection of an applicant's invention, the reference must either be in the field of applicant's endeavor or, if not, then be reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the inventor was concerned."

In the present case, Simon is directed to a body for a valve. Clearly, this is not in the field of applicants' endeavor (an electrical connector). Likewise, there is nothing in Simon to suggest it is reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the inventors were concerned (manufacturing an angled electrical connector at a reduced cost). Simon is clearly not analogous art.

Appl. No.: 10/627,199

Reply to Office Action of: 08/22/2005

O'Loughlin discloses an extruded connector sleeve 16. The sleeve 16 is continuous and is used as part of a wedge connector to wedge with the wire conductor 14 and the terminal post 10. The sleeve 16 must be able to withstand radially outward pressure from the wire 14 and post 10. It would not be obvious to combine the teachings of O'Loughlin with Alvarez because the sleeve 16 needs to be continuous about its circumference so the sleeve can withstand the radially outward pressure created from the inserted wire 14 and post 10. Since Alvarez teaches slots 30, 32 to facilitate compression, it would not be obvious to extrude the clamp 10 in Alvarez based upon O'Loughlin because O'Loughlin discloses no such slots and would appear to teach away from extruding with slots. If O'Loughlin had slots similar to slots 30, 32 the sleeve 16 of O'Loughlin would not be able to withstand the radial forces needed for proper connection of the three components 16, 10, 14. O'Loughlin teaches away from a crimped compression connector (see column 3, lines 15-17 and column 3, lines 8-10; "Instead of being crimped..."). So it is not obvious to combine an extruded connector sleeve from a reference that teaches away from a crimped connection with the clamp 10 of Alvarez which teaches a crimped connection. There is no disclosure or suggestion of using the non-crimped sleeve 16 formation process of O'Loughlin with the crimped clamp 10 of Alvarez. Nowhere in the art of record are the features of claim 11 disclosed or suggested. Therefore, claim 11 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though dependent claims 12-16 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due

Appl. No.: 10/627,199

Reply to Office Action of: 08/22/2005

to their dependence from allowable claim 11. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

Claim 20 has been amended above to clarify applications claimed invention. Similar to claim 11, claim 20 claims removing a portion of the metal member at a middle section of the metal member after the metal member has been extruded; and bending the metal member about the middle section after the portion has been removed from the middle section, wherein the reduced size of the middle section allows easier bending about the middle section. Simon is not analogous art. Even if Simon was analogous art, Alvarez teaches slots 30, 32 to facilitate compression. Therefore, it would not be obvious to extrude the clamp 10 in Alvarez based upon Simon because Simon discloses no such slots. Simon would also appear to teach away from extruding with slots because the valve would leak if it had a slot. There is no disclosure or suggestion of using the non-crimped sleeve 16 formation process of O'Loughlin with the crimped clamp 10 of Alvarez. O'Loughlin teaches away from a crimped compression connector (see column 3, lines 15-17 and column 3, lines 8-10; "Instead of being crimped..."). So it is not obvious to combine an extruded connector sleeve from a reference that teaches away from a crimped connection with the clamp 10 of Alvarez which teaches a crimped connection. Nowhere in the art of record are the features of claim 20 disclosed or suggested. Therefore, claim 20 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though dependent claims 21-23 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due

Appl. No.: 10/627,199

Reply to Office Action of: 08/22/2005

to their dependence from allowable claim 20. However, to expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

Claim 24 has been amended above to clarify applicant's claimed invention. In particular, claim 24 claims removing two spaced portions of a middle section of the metal member after the metal member is extruded; and bending the metal member about the middle section after the portions have been removed from the middle section, wherein the step of bending comprises bending the metal member at the middle section. As discussed above with regard to claim 11, since Alvarez teaches slots 30, 32 to facilitate compression, it would not be obvious to extrude the clamp 10 in Alvarez. Simon discloses no such slots and would appear to each away from extruding with slots because the valve would leak if it had a slot. Simon is also not analogous art. There is no disclosure or suggestion of using the non-cripped sleeve 16 formation process of O'Loughlin with the crimped clamp 10 of Alvarez. O'Loughlin teaches away from a crimped compression connector (see column 3, lines 15-17 and column 3, lines 8-10; "Instead of being crimped..."). So it is not obvious to combine an extruded connector sleeve with a reference that teaches away from a crimped connection with the clamp 10 of Alvarez which teaches a crimped connection. Nowhere in the art of record are the features of claim 24 disclosed or suggested. Therefore, claim 24 is patentable and should be allowed.

Though dependent claims 25-28 contain their own allowable subject matter, these claims should at least be allowable due to their dependence from allowable claim 24. However, to

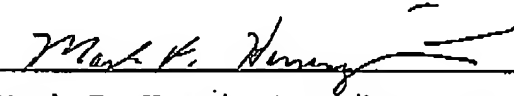
Appl. No.: 10/627,199

Reply to Office Action of: 08/22/2005

expedite prosecution at this time, no further comment will be made.

For all of the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims now present in the application are clearly novel and patentable over the prior art of record. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration and allowance is respectfully requested. Should any unresolved issue remain, the examiner is invited to call applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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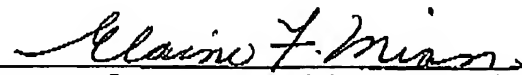
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